

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 9 and 11-14 are pending. Claims 9 and 11-14 have been rejected. Claims 12-14 have been objected to. Claims 12-14 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been objected to because Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C are not designated by a legend such as prior art. Submitted herewith is a letter to the chief draftsman enclosing new formal drawing sheet for Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C labeled as prior art. A copy of Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C is attached to this amendment as an appendix for the convenience of the examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 12-14 have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Colwell et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,207). Claims 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Colwell et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,207). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As understood, *Colwell et al.* at best merely disclose a base cell 100 including NMOS transistors 102 and PMOS transistors 104 formed on a p-type semiconductor substrate. The NMOS transistors 102 include a drain region 122, a source region 124, and a gate 110b. (see column 5, lines 4-50). Gate connection strips 108a-108c connect gate electrodes of the groups 102 and 104. (see column 5, lines 23-30). A tap contact 130 is between two sets of transistors to function as an ohmic contact to ground. Similarly a tap contact 131 is in the group 104 (see column 5, lines 51-64).

It is asserted in the Office Action that *Colwell et al.* recites that first and second substrate regions (108a) and (108b) located in upper and lower sides of the standard cell". (see Office Action, page 3, lines 6-7). However, the reference numbers 108a and 108b in *Colwell et al.* do not refer to first and second substrate regions, but instead the reference numbers 108a and 108b are polysilicon gate connection strips for electrically connecting various gate electrodes (110a—110d, 111a—111d). The tap contacts 130, 131 of *Colwell et al.* may operate as substrate regions. However neither the strips 108 nor the tap contacts 130 and 131 are "said first substrate

region of said each standard cell is joined to the first substrate region of an adjacent cell of said cell row located adjacent to said each standard cell within said each cell row in order to form a first substrate continuous region extending along said cell row in parallel while the second substrate region of said each standard cell is joined to the second substrate region of said adjacent cell in order to form a second substrate continuous region extending along said cell row in parallel” as recited in claim 9. Therefore, the circuit in *Colwell et al.* is not the circuit recited in claim 9.

Lacking the disclosure or a suggestion of at least this claimed feature, *Colwell et al.* cannot render claim 9 unpatentable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is are patentable over the references of record.

Claim 11 recites “said first substrate region of said each standard cell is joined to the first substrate region of an adjacent cell of said cell row located adjacent to said each standard cell within said each cell row in order to form a first substrate continuous region extending along said cell row in parallel while the second substrate region of said each standard cell is joined to the second substrate region of said adjacent cell in order to form a second substrate continuous region extending along said cell row in parallel.” For reasons similar to that described above for claim 9, *Colwell et al.* cannot render claim 11, or claims 12-14, which depend on claim 11, unpatentable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-14 is are patentable over the references of record.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

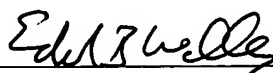
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 2102487-991121.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH

Date: October 28, 2004



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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1A, 1B and 1C. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1A, 1B and 1C replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1A, 1B and 1C

Please designate Figures 1A, 1B and 1C by – Prior Art --.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 1A **PRIOR ART**

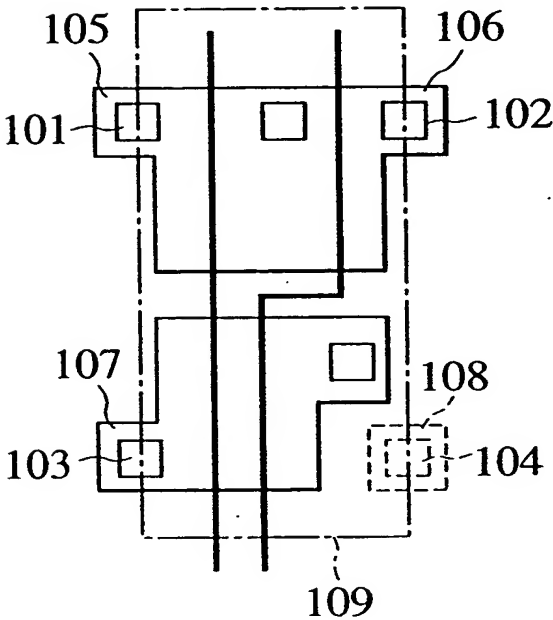


FIG. 1B **PRIOR ART**

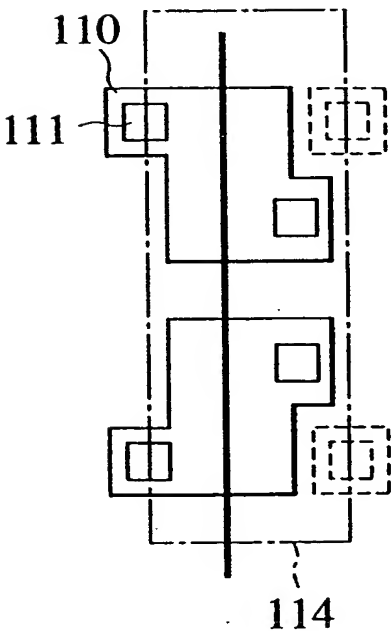


FIG. 1C **PRIOR ART**

